

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 14-23, 25, 30-39, 41, and 47-49 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 14, 19, 25, 30, 35, 41, and 47-49 are independent claims. Claim 3-4, 8, 11, 14-15, 19-20, 22, 25, 30-31, 35-36, and 41 have been amended, and claims 47-49 have been added, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 14-23, 25, 30-39, 41, and 47-49 are respectfully submitted for consideration and timely allowance.

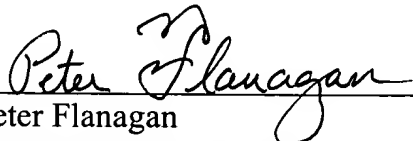
Applicants thank the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance mailed October 20, 2006, indicating the allowance of claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 14-23, 25, 30-39, and 41. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments submitted herewith do not adversely impact the allowability of the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable (and consequently should be allowed) for essentially the same reasons that they were patentable prior to amendment. Furthermore, new claims 47-49 are patentable and should be allowed for similar reasons.

Prompt consideration of the amended claims and timely allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. If – for any reason – the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
Check No. 15707